

- 15 -

WE CLAIM:

1. A clamp comprising:
a first clamping jaw;
a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;
5 a clamp body having a first slot through which said support element
passes along a first direction and a second slot that faces in a direction that is
substantially perpendicular to said first direction;
a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever; and
10 a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an ear
that extends through said second slot.
2. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said braking lever is normally
positioned so as to engage said support element so as prevent said support element
15 and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and
allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw;
3. The clamp of claim 1, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake
actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does
20 not engage said support element.
4. The clamp of claim 3, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving
to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.
- 25 5. The clamp of claim 2, wherein pressing of said ear of said brake
actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does
not engage said support element.
- 30 6. The clamp of claim 5, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving
to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

- 16 -

7. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a third slot and said brake actuator comprises a second ear that extends through said third slot.

5 8. The clamp of claim 7, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

10 9. The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

15 10. The clamp of claim 8, wherein pressing either said ear or said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction prevents said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

20 11. The clamp of claim 8, wherein simultaneously pressing said ear and said second ear along a direction opposite said pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

12. The clamp of claim 7, wherein said third slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

25 13. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator has a trapezoidal shape.

14. The clamp of claim 13, wherein said brake actuator comprises a trapezoidal-shaped rib.

30 15. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said brake actuator defines an opening into which said support element is inserted.

- 17 -

16. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said clamp body comprises a recess and said brake actuator comprises an insertion member that is inserted within said recess.

5 17. The clamp of claim 16, wherein said clamp body comprises a second recess and said brake actuator comprises a second insertion member that is inserted within said second recess.

10 18. The clamp of claim 1, further comprising:
a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and
a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body, wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body.

15 19. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

20. The clamp of claim 1, wherein said support element comprises a bar.

20 21. A clamp comprising:
a first clamping jaw;
a support element to which said first clamping jaw is attached;
a clamp body having a first slot through which said support element passes along a first direction and an opening that faces in a direction that is
25 substantially perpendicular to said first direction;
a handle grip attached to said clamp body;
a braking lever; and
a brake actuator that contacts said braking lever and comprises an engagement element that extends through said opening.

30 22. The clamp of claim 21, wherein said braking lever is normally positioned so as to engage said support element so as prevent said support element

- 18 -

and said first clamping jaw from moving away from said second clamping jaw and allowing said first clamping jaw to move towards said second clamping jaw;

23. The clamp of claim 21, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

24. The clamp of claim 23, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

25. The clamp of claim 22, wherein pressing of said engagement element of said brake actuator causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

26. The clamp of claim 25, wherein said braking lever pivots while moving to said position wherein said braking lever does not engage said support element.

27. The clamp of claim 21, wherein said clamp body comprises a second opening and said brake actuator comprises a second engagement element that extends through said second opening.

28. The clamp of claim 27, wherein pressing either said engagement element or said second engagement element along a pressing direction causes said braking lever to move to a position where said braking lever does not engage said support element.

29. The clamp of claim 27, wherein said second opening slot faces in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first direction.

- 19 -

30. The clamp of claim 21, wherein said engagement element comprises a conical-like surface.

5 31. The clamp of claim 30, further comprising a spring that biases said engagement element to a position where said engagement element does not engage said braking lever.

10 32. The clamp of claim 27, wherein said engagement element comprises a first conical-like surface and a first neck; and
said second engagement element comprises a second conical-like surface and a second neck that is inserted into said first neck.

15 33. The clamp of claim 32, further comprising a spring that is inserted into said first neck and said second neck.

34. The clamp of claim 33, wherein said spring expansively engages both said engagement element and said second engagement element.

20 35. The clamp of claim 21, further comprising:
a trigger handle pivotably mounted to said clamp body; and
a driving lever that is movable to a first position where said driving lever engages said support element and causes said support element to move relative to said clamp body, wherein pivoting of said trigger handle causes said driving lever to move to said first position and causes said support element to move relative to said
25 clamp body.

36. The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a rod.

30 37. The clamp of claim 21, wherein said support element comprises a bar.